

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1815

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, KS, KN

SUBJECT: ROKG SPOKESMAN CLAIMS NORTH ADMITS RESPONSIBILITY
FOR SPY GROUP

REF A SEOUL 1724 B. FBIS B160445 AND B190623

1. INFORMATION MINISTER YUN CHU-YONG IN A STATEMENT
MARCH 19 DESCRIBED NORTH KOREA'S RESPONSE TO THE ULLUNGDO
SPY CASE AS "THE FIRST ADMISSION BY NORTH KOREAN COMMUNISTS
THAT THEY HAVE ORGANIZED AN UNDERGROUND SPY NETWORK
THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH IN A DETERMINED EFFORT TO ACHIEVE
THE IMMINENT GOAL OF REVOLUTION IN THE SOUTH." YUN SAID
PYONGYANG RADIO MARCH 16 HAD DESCRIBED THE 30 PERSONS
ARRESTED AS "MEMBERS OF THE KYONGSANG PUKTO BRANCH OF THE
REVOLUTIONARY PARTY FOR REUNIFICATION."

2. YU ALSO SAID NORTH HAD DIRECTED ITS AGITATION AT SOUTH
KOREAN STUDENTS AND INTELLECTUALS BEGINNING LAST OCTOBER,
BUT FINDING SOUTH'S SOLIDARITY AND SECURITY CONSCIOUSNESS
STRENGTHENED FOLLOWING FISHING BOAT PIRACY INCIDENT
NORTH HAD SHIFTED MAIN TARGET TO EXPLOITING LABOR DISPUTES.

3. YUN'S COMMENT RE NORTH'S "ADMISSION" OF RESPONSIBILITY
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FOR SPY CASE APPARENTLY REFERRED TO MARCH 16 RPR STATEMENT
CARRIED BY KCNA REPORTED FBIS B160445 AND B190623. STATEMENT

PRAISED THEM AS "NEITHER CRIMINALS NOR SPIES BUT REVOLUTION-
ARIES AND PATRIOTS" AND DESCRIBED THEIR ACTIVITIES IN FAVORABLE
TERMS, E.G., "THEY CONDUCTED BOLD ACTIVITIES TO WIN OVER
OFFICERS OF THE 'ROK ARMY', SEIZE THE PUPPET MILITARY
THROUGH THEM AND OVERTHROW THE PRESENT FASCIST DICTATORIAL
'REGIME.'"

4. RPR STATEMENT (FBIS B190623) CONCLUDED BY DECLARING
"WE WILL FIGHT ON STAUNCHLY TO CLEAR THIS LAND OF US AND
JAPANESE AGGRESSOR FORCES,... OVERTHROW THE FASCIST
'REVITALIZED' DICTATORIAL SYSTEM OF THE TRAITOROUS PAK
CHONG-HUI BANDITS AND ESTABLISH A NEW DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL
SYSTEM ON ITS GRAVE, TO ACHIEVE THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF
SOUTH KOREAN SOCIETY INCLUDING THE LEGALIZATION OF
OUR PARTY."

5. SOUTH KOREAN SPOKESMAN FOR SOUTH-NORTH COORDINATING
COMMITTEE (SNCC) TOLD EMBOFF PRIVATELY THAT RPR STATEMENT
WAS NORTH'S ONLY RESPONSE THUS FAR TO SHIN CHIK-SU PRESS
CONFERENCE. HE CONFIRMED OUR IMPRESSION FROM FBIS REPORTS
THAT NORTH HAS NOT COMMENTED DIRECTLY ON SHIN'S
ALLEGATION THAT TWO OF THE ACCUSED HAD MET AND RECEIVED
INSTRUCTIONS FROM YU CHANG-SHIK, CURRENTLY NORTH'S DEPUTY
CO-CHAIRMAN OF SNCC.

6. COMMENT: FBIS VERSION (BASED ON KCNA) CONTAINS NO
DIRECT ADMISSION OF NK TIES WITH RPR OR WITH PERSONS ARRESTED,
SINCE NORTH ALLEGES RPR IS BASED IN SOUTH. HOWEVER, YUN'S STATE-
MENT IS ONLY A MINOR DISTORTION OF NORTH'S RESPONSE, WHICH
IN CIRCUMSTANCES HELPS ROKG SUBSTANTIALLY IN ESTABLISHING
CREDIBILITY OF SPY CASE.
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